



THE Marjoribanks LETTER

FOR AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF THE NAME, IN ALL ITS VARIATIONS - MARCHBANKS, MARCHBANK, MARSHBANKS, AND THE REST*



Sir James Marjoribanks K.C.M.G.

Sir James Alexander Milne Marjoribanks K.C.M.G., a distinguished British diplomat and President Emeritus of The Marjoribanks Family, died in Edinburgh on January 29 of 2002. He was ninety years of age.

Sir James was born in Edinburgh, the son of Rev. Thomas Marjoribanks of that ilk, a minister in the Church of Scotland, and his wife Mary Ord Logan. He was the younger brother of William Logan Marjoribanks of that ilk who died in 1991. Sir James married Sonya Stanley-Alder while serving in the British Embassy in Peking (now Beijing.) Sonya died in 1981. They had one daughter, Patricia Baillie-Strong, who now lives in Belgium, with her husband Stuart. Patricia and Stuart have two sons, Jonathan and Alastair.

Sir James graduated from Edinburgh University with a first-class degree in Modern Languages and joined the Foreign Office with the idea of becoming an interpreter of Chinese and his first postings were to China. He spent his first two years in the Peking embassy and then was posted to the Consulate-General in Hankow. He was there when the city was occupied by the Japanese during the Sino-Japanese War and had vivid memories of atrocities committed against the civilian population. He was eventually flown out of the city in disguise.

His next posting was to Marseilles, just as France was about to fall to the Nazis, and he was evacuated again in 1940.

STIRLING IS THE SITE OF THE 2003 GATHERING

The 2003 Marjoribanks Family Gathering will be held May 16, 17 and 18 at Stirling, in Scotland. Stirling is just a few miles from the village of Thornhill where many ancestors of the Banks branch of the family were born.

Samuel Mandeville Marjoribanks emigrated to Charleston, South Carolina, in 1794. He assumed the shortened family name of Banks, stayed on in America, married and raised eleven children. His descendants are now numerous, mainly in the Southern States.

We will be visiting Thornhill to see Springfield, the modest house in which he was born, and other evidences of the family's early life.

Headquarters of this year's Gathering will be the Golden Lion Hotel, 8/10 King Street, Stirling FK8 1BD, Scotland. The hotel has agreed to reserve a limited number of rooms for the Gathering at the reduced rate of £37.50 per person (breakfast included.) They can be reached by telephone at 01786 475351 or by fax at 01786 472755.

Alastair is New President

Alastair Marjoribanks of Coldstream in Scotland was elected President of The Family at the Annual General Meeting on September 8 in Kelowna, British Columbia.

Alastair, a retired printer and a talented pianist and organist, plays regularly at church services, weddings, funerals and local dances. The head table at the meeting was graced with a handsome table-cloth in the Marjoribanks tartan, the gift of Alastair and his wife Marion.

Dr. Jerry C. Oldshue of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Alabama and one-time University Archivist, was elected Vice President. Dr. Oldshue is descended from William Marchbanks, the son of George Marchbanks (Marjoribanks) the Jacobite rebel.

He spent much of the rest of the war years in America, first as British Consul in Jacksonville, Florida, and then as a Vice-Consul in New York. In America his concern was to build support for the Allied war effort.

He spent the last year of the war in Bucharest as assistant to the British Political Representative there. When the Red Army entered Romania and began setting up a Communist government, Sir James gave refuge in the British legation to the Romanian leader General Radescu.

After two years as Under Secretary of State for economic affairs in the Foreign Office he was appointed in 1965 Ambassador to the European Economic Community. His facility with languages, his patient persistence and his personal charm during the protracted negotiations that eventually led to Britain's acceptance into the EEC were widely admired.

For his services to the nation, in 1965 he was created a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Researchers Explore the Banks Line

New information has been uncovered about the ancestors of the Banks branch of the family.

Roger Marjoribanks of Guildford in England told the Annual Meeting that two members — Roy Mutter of Brentwood Bay, British Columbia and Professor James Allen Long of South Bank University in London — had helped fill some gaps in the early history of the Banks line. Mr. Mutter is descended from Janet, the sister of Samuel Mandeville Marjoribanks who emigrated to America from Thornhill in Perthshire in 1794 and Professor Long is descended from Samuel himself.

Mr. Mutter found a manuscript compiled in about 1881 by his great grandfather James, an officer in the Royal Navy. His research showed that John Marjoribanks, Samuel's father, had left Scotland after being bankrupted by an unwise venture in the distillery business. He died soon after landing in America in about 1785.

Professor Long engaged a professional genealogist who confirmed Mr. Mutter's account of John's bankruptcy. She found no references to his involvement in the distilling industry but the list of John's assets included a malt kiln, an oven used for making barley to make beer and whisky.

Professor Long's inquiries cast new light on the descendants of another Samuel Marjoribanks who took part in 1679 in the Battle of Bothwell Brig between the Covenanters, who supported the establishment of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland, and government forces who opposed them. The Covenanters were routed but this Samuel Marjoribanks, with his wife and their two small sons, David and Thomas, escaped to Perthshire where he worked as a farm labourer. He died in 1790, aged only 38.

His younger son Thomas married Janet Robertson in about 1698 and they had four sons between 1700 and 1705: Samuel, James, Dugel and John. Little is known of Dugel and he may have died in infancy but the three other sons had twenty-three children among them. It is in this generation that some confusion arises.

Both Samuel and James had sons whom they named John and both were born in 1743 within a few weeks of each other. The question arises: which of these Johns was the grandfather of Samuel, the ancestor of the Banks line in America? The scant evidence available makes it virtually certain that it was John, son of Samuel.

All three of the surviving sons of Thomas and Janet — Samuel, James and John — acquired land and became prosperous. Their financial dealings and the disposition of their property to succeeding generations is described in The Marjoribanks Journal No. 7 to be published early in 2003.

Bathgate Academy to Become Flats

The Bathgate Academy, which owes its existence to Alexander Marjoribanks of Balbardie and of that ilk, is going to be converted to a block of flats.

The building, located on Marjoribanks Street in Bathgate, has not been used as a school for the last two years and, while it was empty, it has been attacked by vandals and arsonists and was in danger of collapsing. A local developer wants to restore the 169-year-old building and turn it into twelve flats.

John Newland, a wealthy sugar planter, early in the 19th century, left money in his will for the school to be built but the bequest was opposed by members of his family. Alexander, fondly known as the Auld Laird of Balbardie, mortgaged his own property to raise funds to successfully defend the will in court.

An annual parade honours Alexander and John Newland as protectors of Bathgate's rights. Members of the family were honoured guests at the parade when the Marjoribanks Gathering was held in Bathgate in 1991.



We have crashed the magic world of Harry Potter. The Potter people sell bags of chocolate frogs which contain Wizard cards that the children collect and trade. One of the cards depicts Beaumont Marjoribanks who is said to be a wizard in the field of herbology. No information is provided about Beaumont's genealogy.

Journal Article Defends Coutts

An article in the forthcoming Marjoribanks Journal No. 7 deals with the history of Guisachan, the highland shooting lodge of Sir Dudley Coutts Marjoribanks, later the first Baron Tweedmouth. It traces the history of the property from its beginnings in the 16th century and its reappearance in British Columbia as a housing development and a fashionable restaurant.

Another Journal article deals with Hon. Coutts Marjoribanks, Dudley's son, who managed one of his father's ranches in North Dakota around the end of the 19th century. Coutts is often ridiculed as a 'remittance man,' a term applied to the ne'er-do-well sons of aristocratic British families. A scholarly article by an Arizona history professor, however, describes Coutts as serious-minded and productive rancher who was a leader in his community. If the ranch was not financially successful, he says, it wasn't for lack of effort or managerial skill but simply because of prevailing economic conditions.

Todd Guenther, an historian and museum director in Lander, Wyoming, provides the basis for an article about Lucretia Marchbanks. She was born a slave in the household of William Columbus Marchbanks of Putnam County Tennessee in about 1832. She won her freedom after the Civil War and, using the skills she learned in the Marchbanks household, became a famous cook in the mining fields of the Dakota Territory. She eventually bought a hotel and established a small ranch of her own. She died in 1911, one of the most respected women in the Territory.

The Aberdeens: Canadian Pioneers

During the Kelowna Gathering we toured the 88,000-acre Coldstream Ranch that was owned by Lord and Lady Aberdeen, the former Ishbel Marjoribanks, near the end of the 19th century. We were escorted over the ranch's rolling hills by Mr. Ted Osborn who, like his father before him, is the ranch manager.

The Aberdeens bought two properties in British Columbia. The first was a small ranch near the present city of Kelowna which they named Gushachan, after the highland shooting lodge built by Ishbel's father, the first Baron Tweedmouth. The second was the Coldstream Ranch, then about 13,000 acres, an hour's drive farther north, near the head of Lake Okanagan.

The Aberdeens' agricultural investments were meant to provide a useful occupation and a source of income for Couits Marjoribanks, Ishbel's younger brother, who had recently served as manager of a family ranch in North Dakota. Lord Aberdeen paid \$50,000 for the Coldstream Ranch on the advice of George Grant MacKay, a former road-builder who had worked for Ishbel's father and had since become a wealthy property developer in British Columbia.

It seems to be generally agreed that Lord Aberdeen was bilked.

Thomas Cunningham of the British Columbia Board of Agriculture expressed the opinion that "the real estate agents of B.C. are little more than a set of pirates who have inflated prices and involved many people in serious loss."

There is no doubt that, once the property came into the hands of the Aberdeens, they were badly advised about how it should be managed. Mr. MacKay felt there was no money to be made in raising cattle in the Okanagan Valley (a prophecy that has been amply disproved by Mr. Osborn and his modern staff who successfully maintain 6,800 cattle on the property).

Mr. MacKay advocated that the entire property be planted in fruit and hops. The Aberdeens, however, had not calculated the need for an expensive irrigation system to sustain such crops nor the cost of kilns to process the hops. Eventually 1,000 acres of range land were converted to fruit but the production was disappointing and unprofitable at prevailing prices and in light of the additional costs of irrigation.

Lord Aberdeen built a jam factory at Vernon, to process all the fruits grown in the region which Ishbel dreamed would one day compete with Crosse & Blackwells, the world-famous producer of preserved fruits and pickles founded in 1753. The factory never produced a single pot of jam.

Whatever deficiencies the Aberdeens may have had as entrepreneurs was far offset by their skills and generosity as hosts. They gave a ball in the empty jam factory at Christmas time in 1896 about which the Vernon News said, "never before in the history of the city has such a large and brilliant company been brought together as that which thronged the jam factory last night in response to the invitation of Lord and Lady Aberdeen."

Ishbel notes wistfully, "We wish however that it could have been put to its proper use."

In the same year, she confided to her diary:

"This year we shall have a big deficit of income compared with expenses, though the Coldstream manager is confident of ultimate success. Probably it will either make or ruin us."

As it turned out, the Coldstream adventure was never a financial success, in spite of their unbridled optimism. On seeing Coldstream for the last time in 1916 Ishbel recalled the bright dreams she and her husband had for the place.

"But the years came and went," she wrote, "and the golden age predicted always receded and always more capital was called for so as not to lose what had already been invested . . . Neither the purchase money nor all that was spent on development ever came back and the results of our investment in B.C. have been very sad."

Lord Woolavington (Sir James Buchanan) one of Lord

Marchbank House May be Preserved

Those who remember Alec Creighton Marchbank, one of the early supporters of The Marjoribanks Family, will be interested to know that his home in Bergenfield, New Jersey may be preserved as an historic property.

The borough of Bergenfield is seeking financial assistance from the county and state governments to buy Alec's 4.3 acres for \$1.2 million dollars.

Alec died in 1997 at the age of 87 and the property was inherited by his sons, Phillip and Peter, who say they would be delighted if it could be purchased by the borough and preserved for posterity.

The property is planted with thododendrons, the subject of Alec's life-long passion. He faithfully attended thododendron society meetings in Britain and, while there, took the opportunity to search for his ancestors near Moffat in Dumfriesshire.

Alec was born in England and emigrated to New York in 1939 where he became a partner in a wool-importing firm. He traced his ancestry back to a Robert Marjoribanks in the middle of the 17th century.

Lost and Found

One of our Prince Edward Island kinsmen who for many years was thought to have been lost at sea has turned up in California.

Robert Bruce Marchbank was the son of James Marchbank and his wife Mary Walker who emigrated from Scotland and settled in Prince Edward Island in 1825. Robert followed his father's trade as a grain-shopper and was believed, like him, to have died at sea.

However, Lita Bipere of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, says he landed in California in 1885 and married Anna Eliza Blair five years later in Susanville CA. They had ten children. Robert died October 31 at Artesia CA and is buried in the local cemetery.

Faithful Horses Remembered

There still remains one touching reminder of the Aberdeens' time on the Coldstream Ranch. On the lawn in front of what is now the manager's house is a flat stone, marking the grave of two of Ishbel's favourite carriage horses;

FAITHFUL FILBERT
and
PERFECT ATLAS
died by an accident
Sept 6 1895

While the Aberdeens were returning by train to Coldstream from a visit to Vancouver, Filbert and Atlas were accommodated in a box car. They were both killed when a steam pipe in the car burst.

Aberdeen's partners and a successful whisky manufacturer in Scotland, took over the property in 1920. Lord Woolavington left it to his daughter Catherine MacDonald-Buchanan. It was purchased by its present owners the Keith Balcaen family of Vernon in 1994.

Happily, the Aberdeens' dreams came true, although they didn't live to see the day. With the introduction of modern irrigation systems in 1930, the Okanagan Valley became one of Canada's most successful fruit-growing areas, producing one-third of the country's apples, cherries, peaches, pears and plums.

An article about the Coldstream Ranch in the Vancouver Sun magazine in 1953 declared:

"No ranch contributed more to the early progress of the interior of British Columbia. For here was planted the first orchard, and irrigation first established, to revolutionize the northern end of the Okanagan Valley."

Lord Hailsham Dies at 94

Quintin Hogg, Baron Hailsham of Saint Marylebone, a half brother of Edward Marjoribanks, the distinguished lawyer and author, died October 14, 2001 at the age of 94.

He was the son of Douglas Hogg, Viscount Lord Hailsham, one time Lord Chancellor of England, who in 1905 married Elizabeth Trimble Brown of Tennessee, the widow of his cousin Archibald Marjoribanks, a younger son of the first Baron Tweedmouth. Lord Hailsham adopted Archibald's son and daughter, Edward and Elizabeth Marjoribanks, and raised them with his own children, Quintin and Neill Hogg.

Quintin inherited the viscountcy on his father's death in 1950. He served in a number of ministries in the Conservative government of Harold MacMillan and received some encouragement from MacMillan to stand for the leadership of the Conservative Party and to become Prime Minister. With this in mind, and in order to be eligible for election to the House of Commons, he renounced the viscountcy in 1963. He was elected to the Commons but was defeated in his bid for the party leadership by Alec Douglas-Home. In 1970 he accepted a life peerage as Baron Hailsham of Saint Marylebone, returned to the House of Lords and, as his father had done before him, served three terms as Lord Chancellor, the supreme head of the British justice system.

As Lord Chancellor he served as Speaker of the House of Lords and the story is told (likely apocryphal) that he was making his way one day in procession from his offices to the Lords, dressed in medieval finery, preceded and followed by attendants bearing the various symbols of his office, when he spotted his brother in the lobby and called out "Neill!" whereupon a party of American tourists fell to their knees.

Quintin and his half-brother Edward Marjoribanks were close friends and followed parallel careers at Eton and Oxford. Edward was a brilliant scholar and the author of several biographies of prominent British jurists. Quintin was desolated when Edward, in 1932, following an unsuccessful love affair, took his own life while staying at Quintin's country house.

Heroic Marchbanks Firefighter

Joseph Ross Marchbanks Jr. of Nanuet, New York was one of the gallant firefighters who died saving lives in the disastrous attack on the World Trade Center.

He was Chief of the 12th battalion in Harlem and was just beginning his shift when the alarm sounded. He was guiding people to safety from Tower 2 when the building disintegrated and he was never found.

Joseph was 47 years of age and had been fireman for 22 years. He was born in the Bronx in 1954, the son of the late Joseph and Catherine Marchbanks. He and his wife Teresa were married in 1979 and had a daughter, Lauren now 15, and a son Ryan, nine. A twin brother, Edward, lives in Weymouth, Maine

"A Marjoribanks Lady"

Helen Roberts, an art dealer in Bletchingly, Surrey, has acquired a portrait in oils of a woman identified as "a Marjoribanks lady."

She appealed for help to Roger Marjoribanks, the family historian, and after some research he discovered that the lady was Jean Marjoribanks, daughter of Edward Marjoribanks of Hallyards (1653-1728), one-time City Treasurer of Edinburgh.

She says the painting is very dirty and is in the process of being cleaned but she has promised to send a photograph for the family records.

Marquess Painted Flowers

A good friend of the family, Alastair Gordon, Sixth Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair and the grandson of Ishbel Marjoribanks, Lady Aberdeen, died at his home in Berkshire on August 19. He was 82 years of age.

The Marquess and the Marchioness were guests of honour at a luncheon on September 15, 1995 in connection with the Marjoribanks Gathering at Greenlands, near Henley-on-Thames.

He was well known as a painter of flowers and plants and a collector of botanical art. He was brought up at Haddo House in Aberdeenshire, which members visited during last year's Gathering. He was educated at Harrow and at Gray School of Art in Aberdeen. He served with the Scots Guards during World War II.

After the war he spent two years at Camberwell School of Art, where he met his wife Anne Barry, a sculptor. They had two daughters and a son, Alexander, Earl of Haddo, who succeeded to his father's titles.

Nancy Marjoribanks

Nancy Marjoribanks who served as Honorary Treasurer of The Marjoribanks Family since its inauguration in 1988 died in hospital in Ottawa on November 14 after a brief illness.

She was born in Vancouver but spent her early years in Prince George, British Columbia. She was a graduate of the University of British Columbia and worked for a number of years with the book-publi- shers McClelland and Stewart in Toronto. She was skilled in the construction of miniature furniture, an enthusiastic calligrapher, and a member of the International Club of Ottawa which was dedicated to introducing members of the diplomatic corps to Canadian culture.

Nancy attended virtually all of the Gatherings and was well loved for her grace and charm. Her son Duncan is an animation director with Disney in Hollywood and was responsible for many animated characters, including Sebastian the crab in The Little Mermaid. Robin is an Associate Professor of Physics at the University of Toronto and a Visiting Fellow at Trinity College, Oxford. Catherine is a self-employed book editor and is engaged under contract by most of the major Canadian publishers. There are two grandchildren, Duncan's son Iain, 17, and Catherine's daughter Mary, 7.

Her duties will be assumed by her husband, Robert Marjoribanks, Honorary Secretary.

The Marjoribanks Letter

The Marjoribanks Letter is published by The Marjoribanks Family and is distributed without charge to members.

Annual Fees:	Individual	Family*
The United Kingdom	£12.00	\$22.00
<i>If you prefer, fees may be paid in local currencies at the following rates:</i>		
The United States	\$18.00 (U.S.)	\$34.00
Canada	\$26.00 (Can)	\$47.00
Australia	\$25.00 (Aus)	\$45.00
New Zealand	\$30.00 (NZ)	\$55.00

* Family membership includes parents and their children.

Please address applications for membership, payments of fees, editorial contributions and other correspondence to:

Robert Marjoribanks
Honorary Secretary
The Marjoribanks Family
2228 Kipling Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1H 6T5
Canada.